

Michigan: Eliminating Lead Poisoning

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Michigan Department
of Health and Human
Services

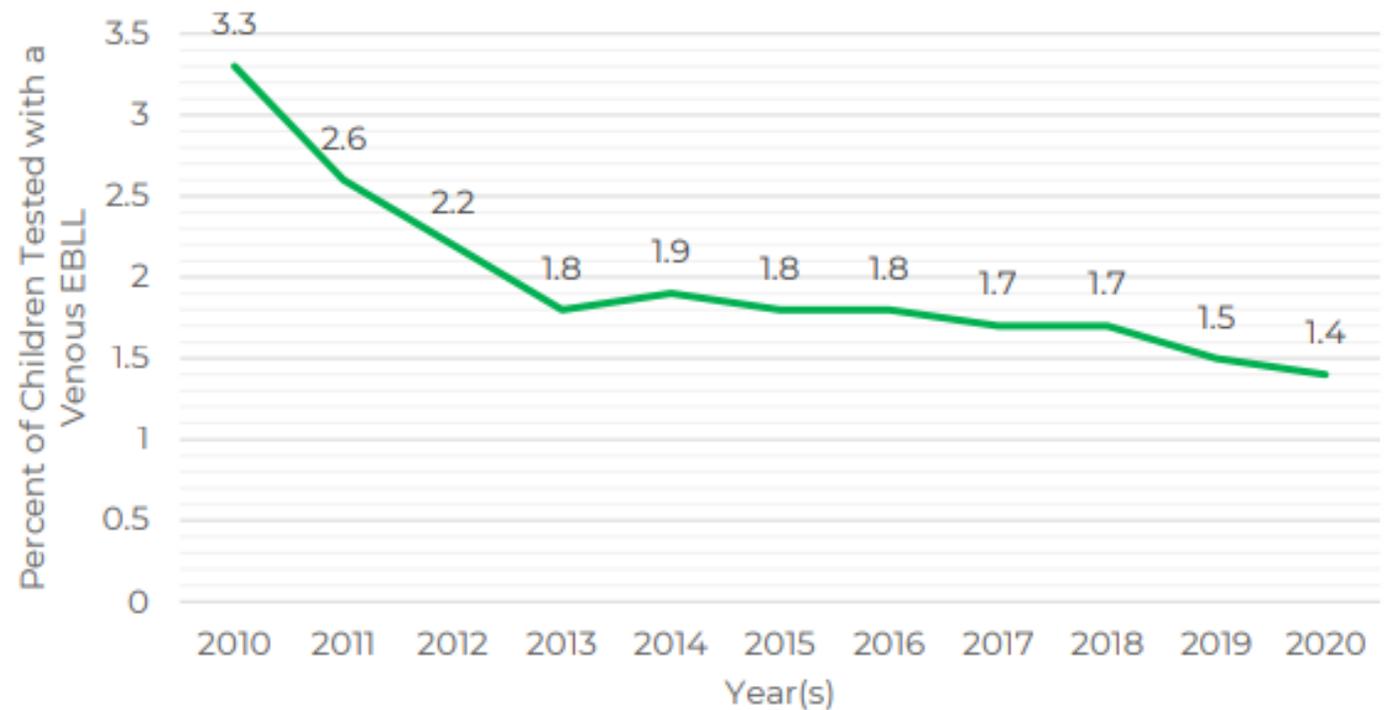
2021 CHILD LEAD EXPOSURE ELIMINATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Childhood lead exposure is one of the most preventable environmental health hazards in history. While numbers and rates of elevated blood lead levels in children have decreased substantially over the past few decades, mounting evidence suggests that even low-level lead exposure can have long lasting impacts on children. We must ensure that all children in our state have healthy environments in which they can live, learn and play.

A Decade of Progress

Table 4: Percent of children tested with a venous elevated blood lead level in Michigan $\geq 4 \mu\text{g/dl}$ (2010-2020)



All data was obtained from the [MiTracking Michigan Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) website.

In 2020, 2.4% of 94,032 children tested had blood lead levels of $\geq 5.0 \mu\text{g/dL}$ and 378 (0.4%) with $\geq 10.0 \mu\text{g/dL}$.

September 27, 2021

Individual- and Community-Level Factors Associated With Detectable and Elevated Blood Lead Levels in US Children

Results From a National Clinical Laboratory

Marissa Hauptman, MD, MPH^{1,2}; Justin K. Niles, MA³; Jeffrey Gudin, MD^{3,4}; Harvey W. Kaufman, MD³

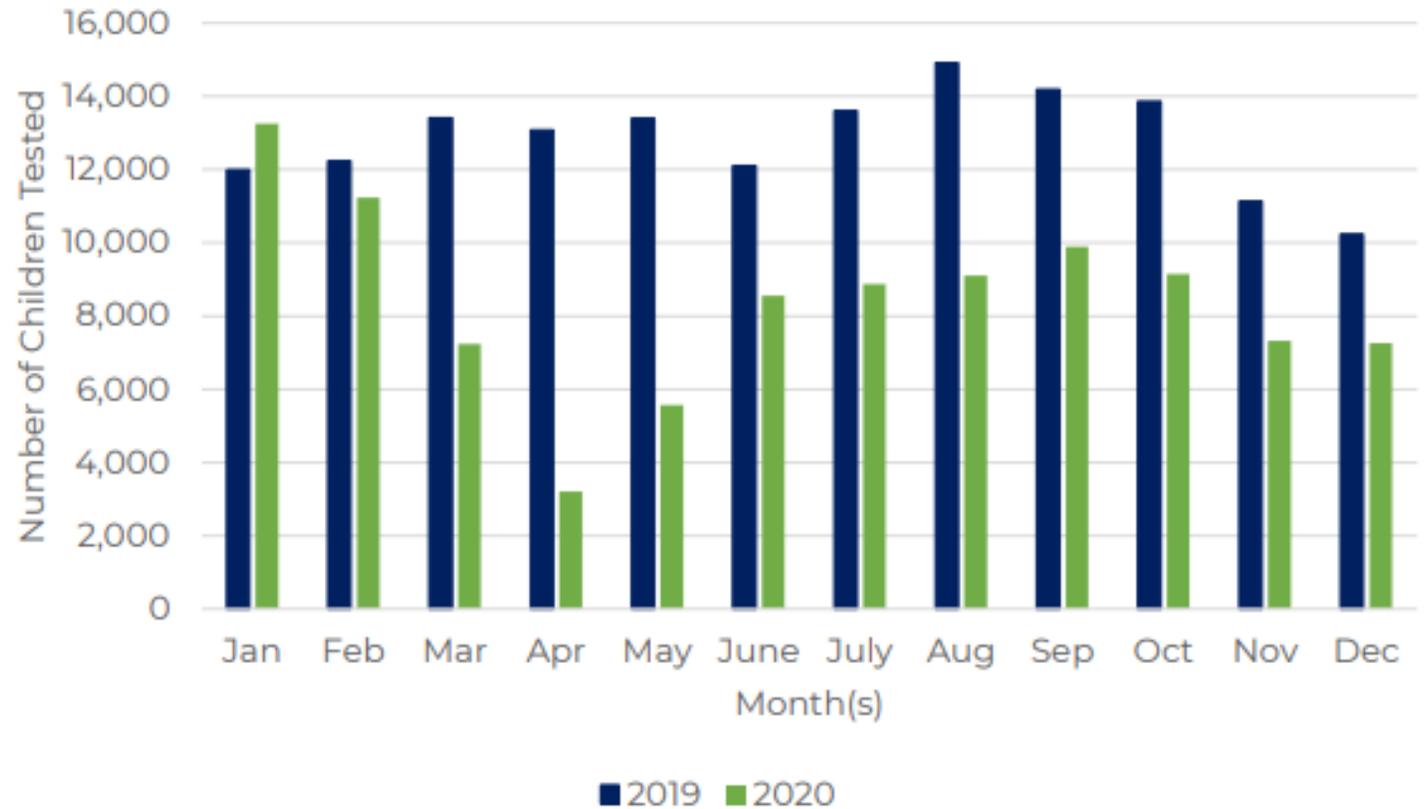
	Elevated ≥5.0 ug/dL	Detected ≥1.0 ug/dL		Specimens Tested
Michigan	4.5%	78%		10,681
US	1.9%	50%		1,140,188

Quest Diagnostics tested only 5.3% of what Michigan Department of Public Health reported (annualized). Thus, the Michigan Department of Public Health data is the best representation of children’s exposure to lead. Specimens referred to Quest Diagnostics may represent selection Bias with a higher proportion of specimens referred for confirmatory Testing.

The study showed with a much lower detection limit, that half of all US children had detectable blood lead levels and just over three in every four children <6 years of age in Michigan.

Missed Testing During COVID-19 Pandemic

Table 1: Number of children under age 6 tested for lead in Michigan by month, comparing 2019 to 2020



In 2020, 94,032 Michigan children under age 6 years of age received a blood lead screening test, a 34% decrease compared to the 143,221 children tested in 2019.

Working Together to Protect Our Children

Collaboration and Coordination

- Community testing (new (October 2021) CDC limit lowered to 3.5 ug/dL)
- Remediation of homes
- Removal of lead service lines

We believe Michigan will become a place where children, especially those in vulnerable communities, live, learn and play protected from lead exposure and its harmful impacts.